

How short the pow'rs of nature fall,  
And can no farther go.

But, asking pardon for this digression, we must return to our subject.

The famine was not confined to Egypt, but its dreadful influence was felt in all the neighbouring countries. What shocking scenes may we now imagine were exhibited among the poor! picture to yourself, reader, children pining with hunger, crying to their parents for meat, when there was none to be obtained; while the father of an helpless family could do nothing, but, by incessant floods of tears, shew how much he felt their misery, and how unable he was to relieve them in their woe. But few persons know how dreadful a thing it is, for a large family to be extremely poor, and want bread to eat; yet, from the ideas we may form of such a situation, we ought certainly to be ready to lend them every assistance

that we can; remembering, that the bible says, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor and the needy." In this time of general distress, Joseph's father, and the rest of his family, in the land of Canaan, felt severely. Having eat up all the provision which they could possibly raise in the land, they had almost given themselves up to despair. His sons, and their children, seemed to have given up all further endeavours to obtain food, and lived in the horrible expectation of shortly being famished. Perhaps at this time many melancholy reflections would steal into their minds, upbraiding them with their cruel and unwarrantable usage of Joseph: for conscience will torment wicked men, when they have reason to fear, that they are approaching the grave.

At this period, Jacob heard, that corn might be obtained in Egypt. News had been brought him, of the great provision which one of Pharaoh's chief